

Message Text

SECRET

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16
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

DODE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 EUR-08 PRS-01 L-01

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P 280420Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4256
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
COMIPAC PRIORITY
COMUSSAG NKP TH PRIORITY

S E C R E T SAIGON 3660

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING NHA TRANG TEL SENT 27 MAR ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON;
INFO DAO SGN BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

SECRET NHA TRANG 0222

LIMDIS

DAO FOR AOSOP-IX/ISM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION, MR-2

REF: NHA TRANG 0216

1. ON MARCH 26 HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN BINH DINH. TAM QUAN
SUBSECTOR HQS, WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVING HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE FOR
SEVERAL WEEKS, TOOK SOME 120 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND THEN WAS GROUND
ATTACKED. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 27, SUBSECTOR FORCES
REPORTEDLY PULLED OUT OF TAM QUAN AND MOVED TO BONG SON. FURTHER

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TO THE SOUTH, EAST OF BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN, THE 41ST AND 42ND

ARVN REGTS REPORTEDLY WERE SURROUNDED BY AND HAD HEAVY CONTACT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD NVA DIV AND THE 95B NVA REGT (THE LATTER REPORTEDLY JUST ARRIVED IN BINH DINH). ACCORDING TO THE LATEST REPORT, THE 41ST AND 42ND HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE FORCES SURROUNDING THEM AND ARE MOVING TOWARD QUI NHON. VNAF PLANES FROM PHU CAT AIRBASE HAVE BEEN LANDING CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT TO GVN GROUND FORCES BOTH IN TAM QUAN AND BINH KHE. IN QUI NHON ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 26, 2 SAPPERS WERE KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED BY THE GVN BEFORE THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSION (WHICH WAS TO DESTROY SHIPS IN THE HARBOR). PROV REP BINH DINH REPORTS AN ACCELERATION IN THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE OUT OF QUI NHON SOUTHWARD ON QL-1.

2. AS WE REPORTED YESTERDAY (REFTEL, SOME 20,000-60,000 PERSONS FROM THE KONTUM/PLEIKU CONVOY HAVE ARRIVED IN THE TUY HOA AREA. AMONG THOSE ARRIVING YESTERDAY (MARCH 26) WAS THE FORMER PHU BON PROVINCE CHIEF, LTC BAO. BECAUSE MOST SHOPS ARE NOW CLOSED IN TUY HOA, PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ARE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN BUYING FOOD FOR THE REFUGEES. SOME 40-50 PERCENT OF TUY HOA'S POPULATION HAVE LEFT FOR NHA TRANG (MOSTLY BY ROAD). PROV REP REPORTS THAT SOUTHWESTERN PHU YEN IS UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL (WITH NVA MAIN FORCES BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED TO THE WEST AND VC LOCAL FORCES TO THE EAST OF SON HOA DISTRICT TOWN). COMMUNIST INTENTIONS IN PHU YEN ARE UNCLEAR, BUT THE PROVINCE CHIEF STATES HE HAS ORDERS TO HOLD TUY HOA. THE 1ST BN OF THE 40TH ARVN REGT HAS REPORTEDLY MOVED FROM BINH DINH TO THE CAO PASS ON THE BORDER BETWEEN PHU YEN AND KHANH HOA PROVINCES.

3. MILITARY ACTION IN KHANH HOA CONTINUES TO BE LIGHT, WITH ONLY MINOR CONTACTS REPORTED IN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT NEAR THE CAO PASS. IN FACT, COMMUNIST FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE PULLED BACK FROM KHANH DUONG. LRP TEAMS SENT INTO KHANH DUONG DISTRICT BY THE GVN HAVE NOT SIGHTED ANY COMMUNIST UNITS, AND VNAF HAS BEEN PICKING UP REFUGEES

UP TO 3-4 KM WEST AND SOUTH OF KHANH DUONG DISTRICT TOWN. SEVERAL HUNDRED VEHICLES FROM PHU YEN CARRYING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED IN NHA TRANG, WHERE THE HQS OF THE RANGERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GENERAL TAT. THE 3RD/3RD ARMORED CAV GROUP (16 APC'S) HAS MOVED FROM TUY HOA TO DIEN KHANH. 3 CO'S OF RF FROM DARLAC HAVE BEEN REFITTED AND ASSIGNED TO CAM RANH SECTOR.

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4. TROOP STRAGGLERS--ESPECIALLY RANGERS--ARRIVING ALONG WITH THE CIVILIAN REFUGEES IN NHA TRANG ARE CAUSING SOME DISORDER HERE. (THE GVN'S INTENTION WAS TO PLACE ALL THE RETURNING SOLDIERS IN TRAINING CAMPS IN NORTHERN KHANH HOA, BUT MANY OF THE SOLDIERS REFUSED TO GO TO THE CAMPS AND WENT ON TO NHA TRANG.) HOWEVER, MP'S ARE WORKING HARD ON THE PROBLEM AND APPEAR TO BE GETTING ON TOP OF IT.

SPEAR
MARTIN

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NNN

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